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21st Dec. 1991
№ 109 55p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Christmas is a very busy time on the Island of Sodor and the Fat Controller expects the engines to do many important jobs for him. In the story that begins on page 3, James is given a very important job to do, but the other engines may be able to help too, especially Thomas! Peep! Peep!

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION!

In this Christmas issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you can be the proud winner of a brand new range of **Thomas Miniature Adventure Playsets** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.* Turn to page **14** for details!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your special **Fat Controller card** just send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below) listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope to Fat Controller Card, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

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THOMAS TOKEN

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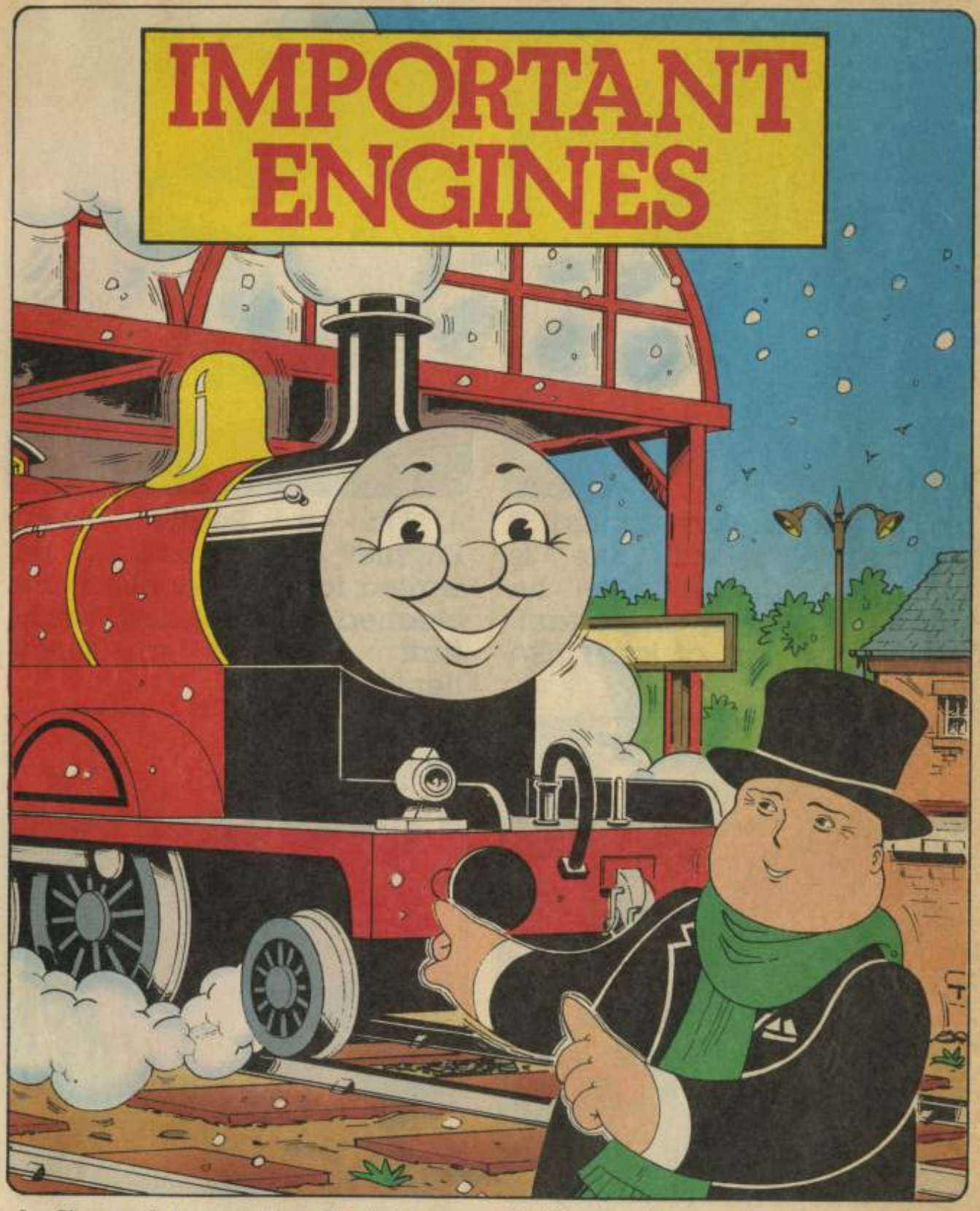
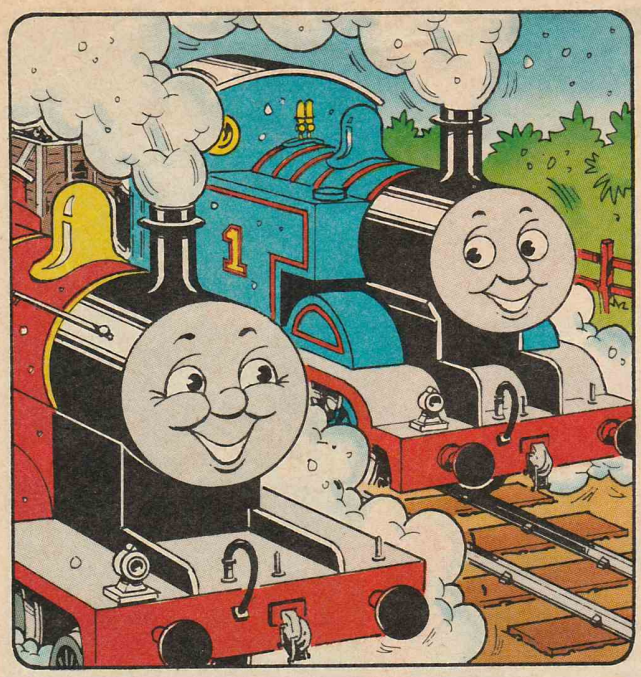
A listen and look story!

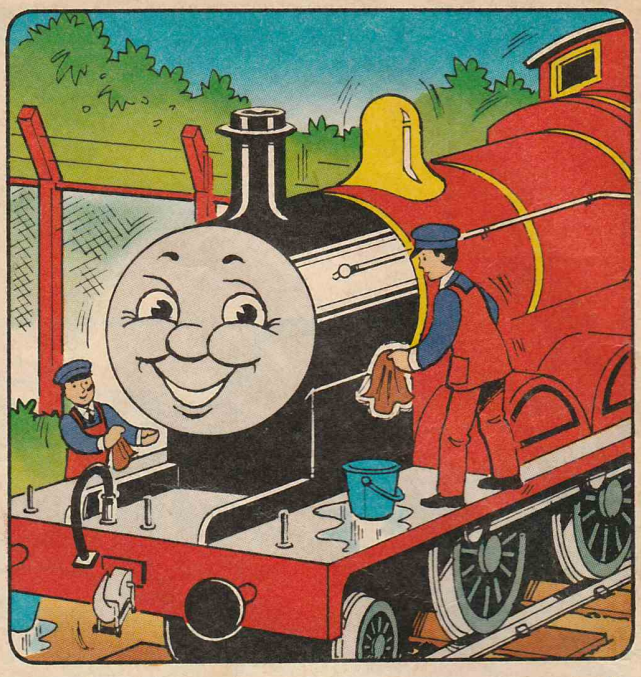


1. It would soon be Christmas Day on the Island of Sodor. Early one morning the Fat Controller went to see James "I have a special job for you to do!" he said, importantly.

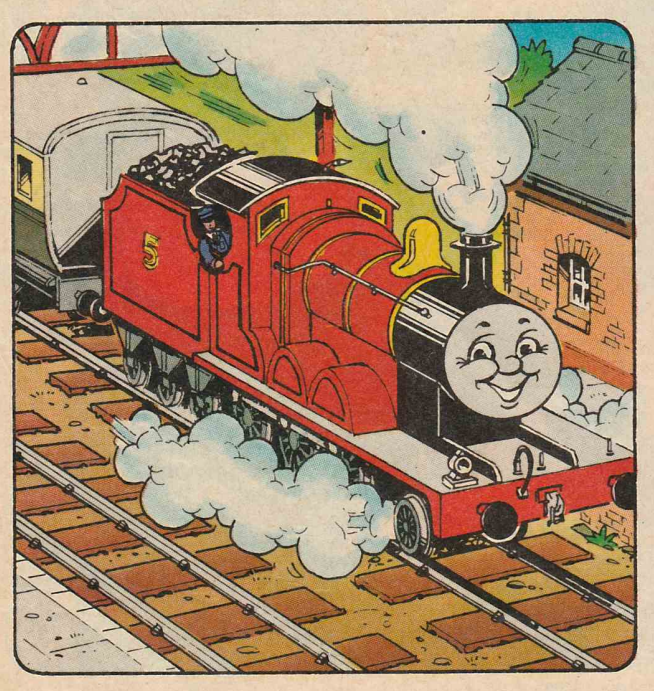
2. "I want you to take Lady Hatt into Wellsworth on the two o'clock train, so she can buy Christmas presents," the Fat Controller said. "Yes, sir!" said James proudly.



3. James was very excited. "I say! Lady Hatt! She is the Fat Controller's wife!" he said. "How very important. This is the sort of job I like best."

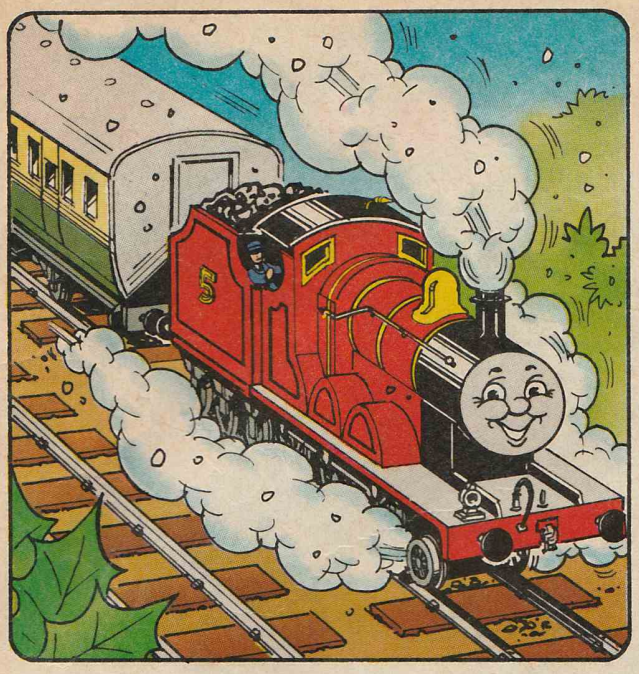


4. "I'm a Really Useful Engine!" James said as he waited for his coaches to be cleaned and polished. "Lady Hatt is sure to enjoy her journey."

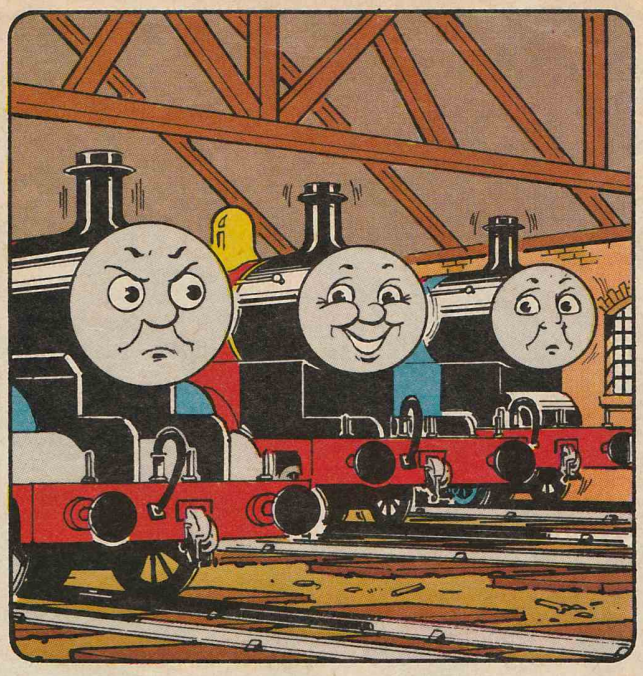


5. James left the shed and was coupled to his coaches as soon as they were ready. In a little while, he arrived at the Main Station. He was sparkling in the sunshine.

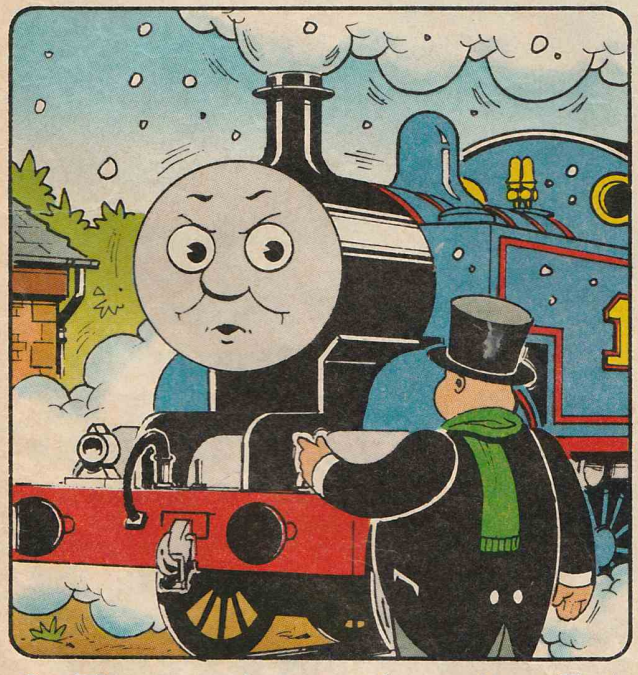
6. Lady Hatt arrived and climbed on board. "James does look smart," she said to the guard. "It is very pleasant to be pulled by such a grand engine."



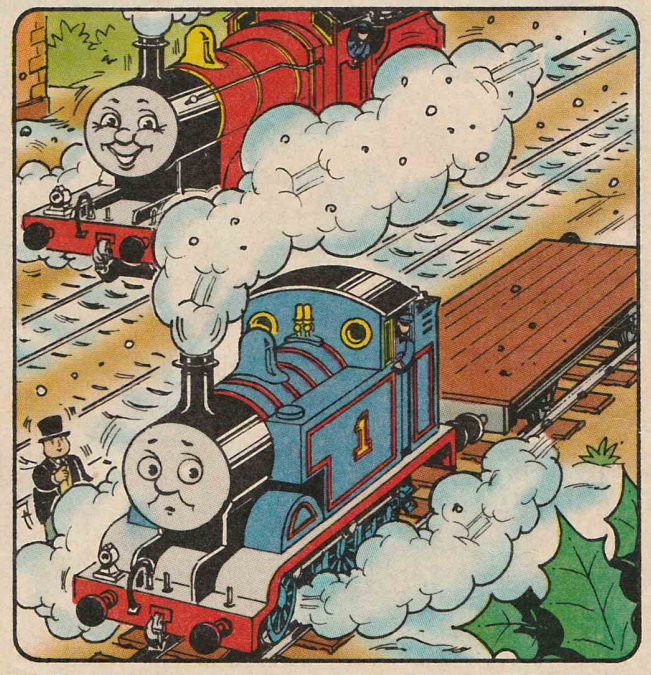
7. James pulled off importantly and whistled loudly to make sure the other engines noticed him leaving. "What a show off!" said Thomas, in the yard.



8. That night, James told all the engines about taking Lady Hatt to the shops. "I'm far too important to pull trucks, like you do, Thomas!" he said.



9. The next morning, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas. "I need you to collect a big tree, then you can pull Annie and Clarabel again," said the Fat Controller.



10. Thomas was disappointed. "Can't I do something important sir, like James did?" he said. "This is very important!" replied the Fat Controller.

11. Thomas had to take a flat truck to the Big Harbour Yard. On his way, he passed James. "Pulling silly trucks is what Tank Engines are best at," teased James. Thomas puffed crossly to the harbour. A huge fir tree was lowered onto Thomas' truck. Once it had been secured with rope Thomas returned to the Main Station.

12. "Well done, Thomas," said the Fat Controller. "The big tree will stand at the Main Station." The tree was decorated with colourful lights. "This tree is to thank all the engines who have helped on the railway this Christmas," announced the Fat Controller. "So, you see Thomas," he added, "it was an important job!" Thomas smiled proudly.

THE END

In our next issue: Lazy wheels!

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THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE CLUB

JUMP ON BOARD!

JOIN THE NEW THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE CLUB!

Just launched in October, this Club is not like any ordinary club! As well as getting a splendid Membership Pack when you join, you will also receive three further mailings during the year. On your birthday, you will also get a special birthday card from Thomas!

In your Membership Pack will be your Club Membership Card (or Season Ticket), your unique Club badge, a very large Activity Poster for you to colour, Stickers of Thomas and his friends, a Stencil Set with crayons and your own Stationmaster's Hat! If that's not enough, you'll also get your first copy of The Thomas Times, the Club's own full colour Newsletter!

As a Thomas Club Member you will be able to take part in very special competitions, offers and Club events! You can also send in stories and pictures to the Club and they may get published in The Thomas Times! All of this only costs £9.95 for a full year's membership!

All you have to do is ask a grown-up to send your name, address and date of birth to: **The Thomas the Tank Engine Club, c/o PO Box 96, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 2PQ.**

Payment can be made by either sending a cheque for **£9.95** made payable to The Thomas the Tank Engine Club or giving Visa or Mastercard details showing credit card number, expiry date, name and signature. (If you live abroad, you will need to send **£14.95** in sterling, to cover additional postage costs.)

Percy to the Rescue!

"Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming!" sang Percy cheerily, as he pulled some trucks of slate along a branch line from the quarry to the harbour. He could not use the main track because workmen were repairing a broken rail.

It was snowing very hard. Percy had to go slowly to make sure his driver could see the signals. Sometimes, the snow made his wheels slip. But Percy didn't mind. He liked snow!

"Peep! Peep! Everything is white!" he whistled. The countryside looked as if it had been covered in a white sheet. The trees were thick with snow, too.

Snowflakes fell everywhere. They dropped onto Percy's funnel. But his hot smoke melted them straight away. As Percy puffed on, past more snowy trees close to the line, he saw someone standing among them. The man was white all over and wearing a hat and a scarf.

Snowman.

"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Percy. "That man is covered in snow. He must feel very cold!"

The snow was blowing into Percy's eyes and it was hard to see the man clearly. When Percy returned to the engine shed, that evening, he told Thomas and the other engines about the mysterious man. Next morning, it was snowing again. Percy had to make another run from the quarry to the harbour.

"The repair to the main line is still not finished!" said his driver. "We'll use the branch line again."

Percy set off. He wondered if he would see the mysterious man during his journey. He began to slow down by the trees so that he could have a closer look. The mysterious man was still standing there!

"Perhaps he's been there all night!" thought Percy. "He must be very cold indeed!"

Percy returned to the Main Station yard and told the Fat Controller who in turn asked Percy to find out who the mysterious man really was.

"I'll go now sir!" replied Percy. The Fat Controller pulled on some thick boots and climbed up into Percy's cab, with the driver. Then Percy pulled out of the Main Station. He felt very important, as the other engines watched him.

Thick snow covered the rails. Percy hurried on as fast as he could. When he neared the trees he stopped and the Fat Controller climbed down. "Be careful not to slip, sir!" said Percy.

The Fat Controller trudged through the snow. It covered his boots completely. Then suddenly, he called from among the trees. "There is a man with a scarf here, Percy!"

Then the Fat Controller began to laugh. He called Percy's driver to come and look. "Whatever is so funny, sir?" called Percy, puzzled. "It's a snowman!" replied the Fat Controller. "Some children must have made him!"

Percy felt very silly, indeed. When he returned to the Main Station, the other engines must have heard what had happened and laughed, too. "Fancy Percy being fooled by a snowman!" teased Duck. "A snowman can't feel the cold!" chuckled Thomas.

THE END!

It's Christm

Which engine can you see?

Where has he just stopped?

How many guards are on the platform?

What is the Fat Controller giving to them?

Can you see the bi

What are the guar

What time of year

Point to the church

as!

ig fir tree?
rds hanging on it?
do you think it is?
n on the hill!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Party celebrations

JOIN THE DOTS!

"Upon my soul, gracious me!
Christmas shapes – What can they be?"
Join the dots and you will see,
Then colour this picture prettily!

COMPETITION!

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

This is your final chance to win one of two super toys from ERTL (UK) Ltd.
The first **12** lucky winners will receive a splendid **6-piece Thomas Miniature Adventure Playset**, and **24** runners up will recieve a **4- piece Thomas Miniature Adventure Playset.** Each miniature playset has an interchangeable base, to create different track layouts. Selected layouts include features such as moving level crossings, turning windmills and rotating turntables. Also, every set comes complete with it's own highly detailed minature engine complete with roller wheels. Both sets are available from most high street stores and selected retail outlets.

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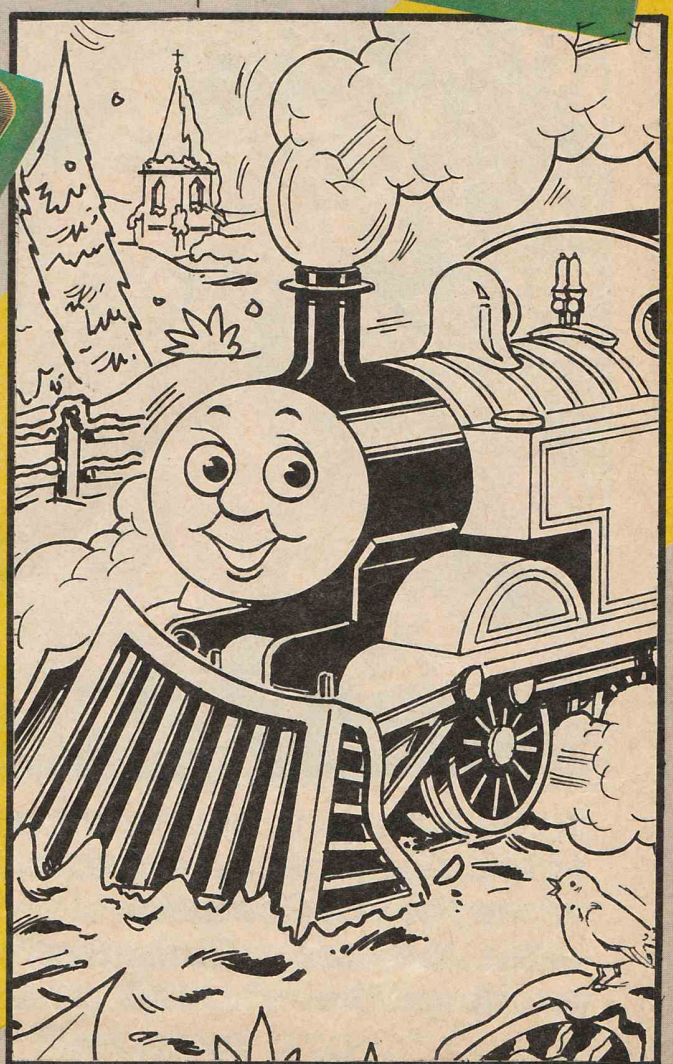


How to enter:

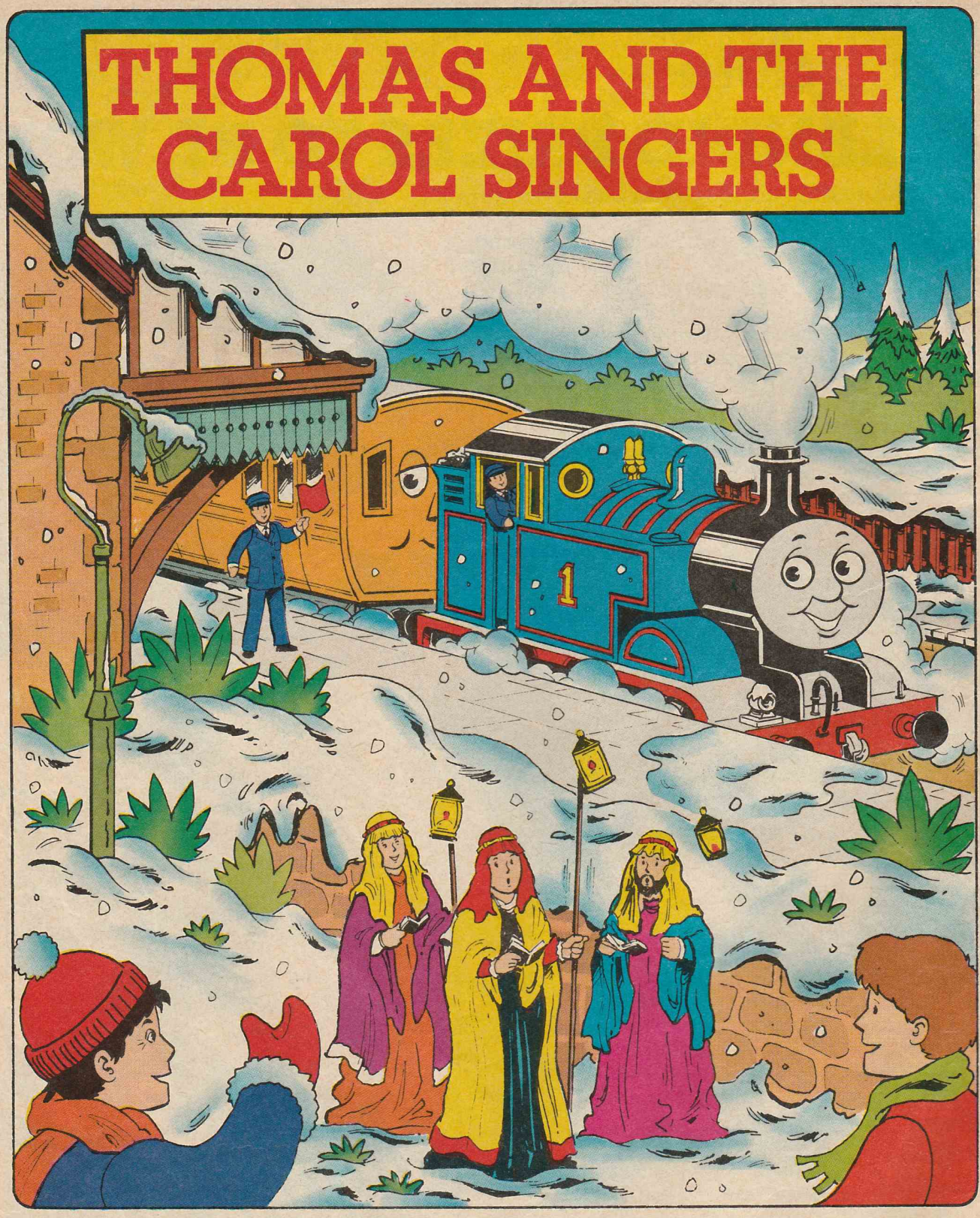
Colour in the splendid picture on this page as carefully and brightly as you can. Fill in your entry form and send this page to:
Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....Age.....
Address .....
.....
.....
My favourite Thomas story is.....
because .....

Closing date: 5th January 1992.

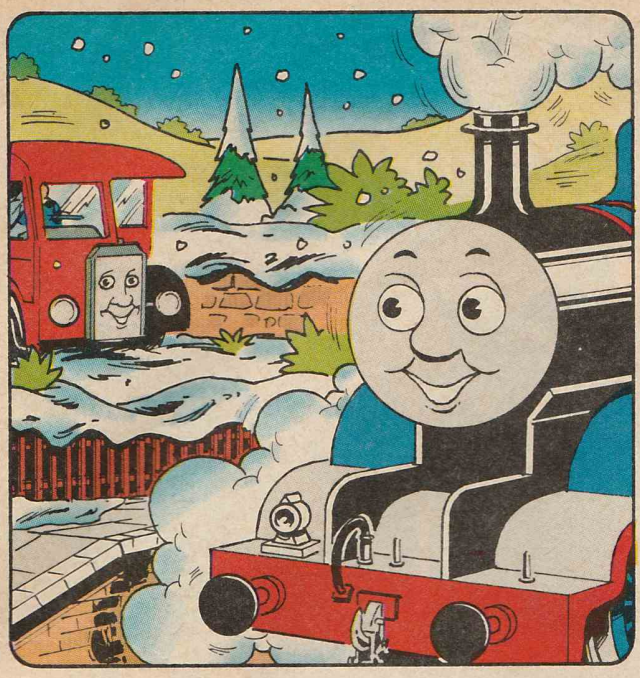
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

A listen and look story!



1. Christmas is Thomas's favourite season, especially when the Fat Controller decorates the tree. "Christmas is exciting!" he whistled as he puffed through the snow.

2. Thomas ran up and down his branch line with Annie and Clarabel. Soon he arrived at a station where carol-singers were dressed as shepherds with lanterns.



3. Bertie the Bus was parked nearby. "Hello, Thomas!" he called. "The carol-singers are collecting money to buy Christmas presents for all the children in hospital.

4. Bertie had come to take the carol-singers to a school beside the Main Station so that parents and children could donate money to the charity.

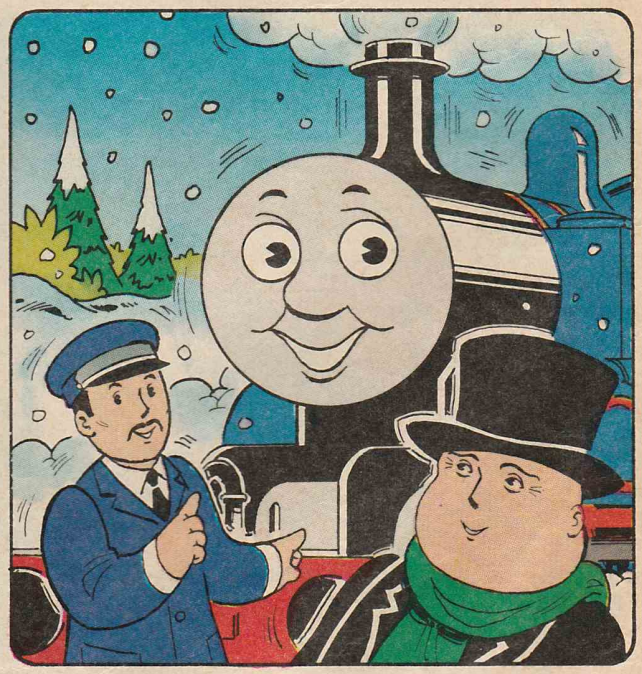
5. The carol-singers climbed excitedly into Bertie. But the snow was so deep that he got stuck. His driver fetched shovels to dig Bertie's wheels out of the snow drift.

6. The carol-singers helped the driver dig away the snow. Bertie tried to move, but his wheels just span round. Terence the tractor had to be called out to help.

7. Terence slowly towed Bertie out of the big snowdrift with a rope. Terence didn't mind snow because he had caterpillar treads which stopped him getting stuck.

8. Thomas wanted to help. He knew all the schoolchildren were waiting to hear the carol-singers. "Could I take them to the station?" Thomas asked his driver.

9. They took the carol-singers to the next station in Annie and Clarabel. The Fat Controller was waiting. "The snow is too thick for you to carry on," he warned.



10. "Perhaps Thomas could wear his snow plough," suggested the driver. The Fat Controller agreed to give it a try and the snow plough was fitted right away.

11. While the snow plough was being fitted, the carol-singers sang a cheery carol at the tops of their voices. Thomas's driver knew the words, so he joined in too. Everybody helped and, although the snow fell thickly, they were soon ready to set off. With a "Peep! Peep!" Thomas cleared the snow drift.

12. "This silly snow won't stop me now," whistled Thomas as he gathered speed. The carol-singers felt snug and cheerful inside Annie and Clarabel, and Thomas got through the snow very easily. When the carol-singers arrived at the school they were given mince pies. "Now everyone will have a happy Christmas!" said Thomas.

THE END

In our next issue: A job for James!

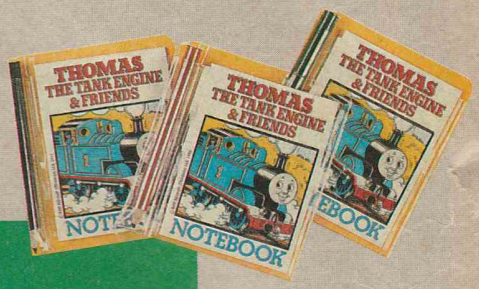
A SPLENDID CHRISTMAS GIFT

WITH FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

Give your child a great Christmas present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (**£35.00** overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**



EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a **FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil** plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders only.

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Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....

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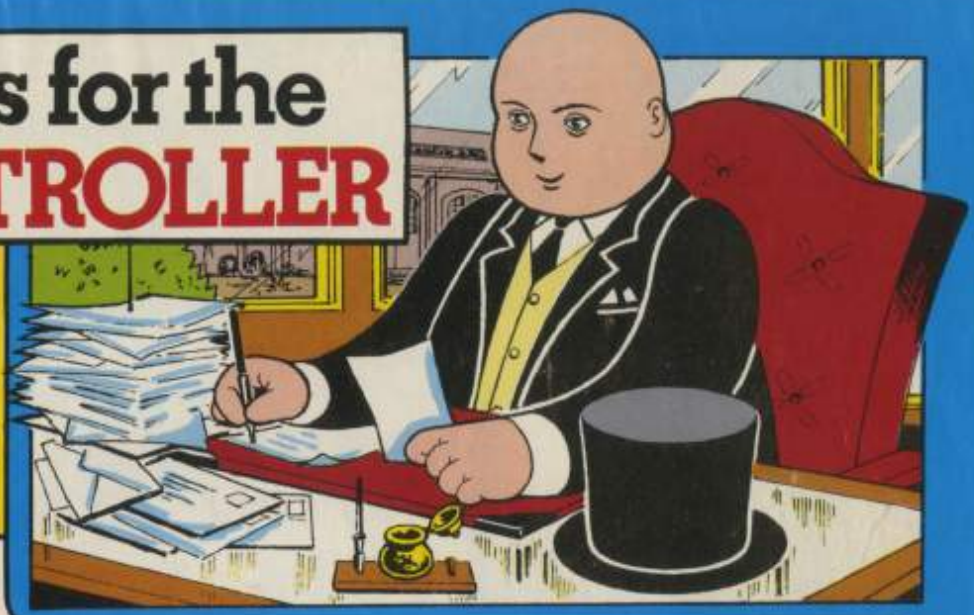
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

(Tick boxes where appropriate)

FC1

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Every Christmas my daddy takes me on a big steam train and we go to a station to meet Santa Claus! Does Santa ever ride on any of your trains at Christmas? Does he bring Thomas a present?

Love from **Thomas Bilby** (age 3).

Christmas is a very special time on the Island of Sodor! Quite often, I dress up as Father Christmas and Thomas helps me to bring toys to the Children's Hospital!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

CHRISTMAS VISITORS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My baby brother and I love to watch Thomas and all his friends. We went to see you at Christmas time and you said hello to me and my brother and gave us both a flag each!

Love from **Adam**.

I must say, Adam, we do receive many visitors on the Island of Sodor at Christmas and I like to make everyone feel very welcome by giving them a special Christmas gift each!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Daisy is my favourite engine! Can you please tell me what she is having for Christmas?
Love from **Arnie Skinner**.

Well! Well! Daisy's whistle has been damaged by ice recently so I do think it would be appropriate if I give her a shiny new whistle for Christmas!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ian John Churchill (11953), Ricky Weatherill, Thomas Wray, Benjamin Hawling (32168), Kirsten Powell, Stefan Granton (34529), William Woods (34573), Martyn George Ashley Grierson, Nicholas Turner (32228), Toby Goodger (36323), Christopher Eawes (34961), Marion Ang, Thomas Price (30184), Adam Keith Spencer (34248), Kier Gough (36917), Katherine Hardley (31913), Mark Mowvley, Taylor Adele Smout (37570), Lewis Terry (35658), Nicolas Bone (34432), Adam Berrow (36796), Richard James Hitchcock (28706), Christopher.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

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